

Thursday, April 20, 1950

Radio 'Hams' All Over the World Rally to Cheer a Sick Little Boy

By DAVID RADBIL

A radio amateur in Massachusetts told one in Louisiana. A "ham" in Alaska listened in. And so the word spread.

That is why 9 year old Armand Schultz, 2916 S. Lenox st., in Milwaukee, has nearly 30,000 post cards to cheer him.

Armand is suffering from lymphatic leukemia, a dread and deadly disease. He has undergone protracted treatment, the latest of it at the Wisconsin General hospital, General hospital, Madison.

During his illness, Armand has been interested in the collecting of post cards. It is one of those interests so important to the well being of the chronically ill.

News of the child's hobby reached George Brown, a radio amateur of Providence, R. I. He mentioned it

to Harry Rex, jr., a "ham" who lives on Nantucket island, off the coast of Massachusetts.

Massachusetts to Alaska

Rex promised that he would spread the word among his "ham" contacts that a sick little boy wanted post cards.

He hooked up with a friend of his in West Monroe, La., and told him about Armand. A few minutes later, Rex got a call from Anchorage, Alaska, where a radio amateur had overheard the conversation. The Alaskan wanted Armand's address.

The globe circling "ham" chatter had started. Soon post cards and letters began pouring in.

A "ham" in Japan heard about Armand and sent him a QSL (radio "ham" acknowledgment card). Two magazines were sent by a radio amateur in Rhodesia, south Africa. A "ham" from Peru mailed his best wishes. So did others from Mexico, New Zealand, Alaska, Canal Zone, Panama, Canada and England.

The mail flooded in from radio amateurs all over the United States.

One man from Greenville, R. I., sent a collection of 1,700 post cards dating back to 1878. They included everything from love notes to notices of overdue bills.

A man from Fairview, Mass., sent

his entire collection of between 2,000 and 3,000 post cards.

A blind Nantucket musician, who is an avid "ham" listener, sent a post card in Braille, expressing his best wishes.

The governor of Rhode Island sent a message of best wishes and cheer.

Armand's grandfather built a special cabinet to hold the cards. They have overflowed this and hundreds stand in boxes on the floor.

Transmits His Thanks

To permit the boy to thank his "ham" friends, Armand was taken to the home of Fred H. Zolin, 2443 N. Cramer st., vice-president of the Milwaukee Radio Amateur's club. There he took the microphone at Zolin's transmitter, W90NY, and talked to Rex.

Seeing Armand so interested in the broadcast, Zolin and his club arranged to have a short wave communication receiver installed in the Schultz home. Then they made Armand an honorary member of their organization, the oldest active radio club in the world.

One of Armand's biggest boosters is a bedridden "ham" in the east. He operates his set, placed just above his bed, with the one arm he can move.



—Ken Eggert

Because the word got around among radio hams all over the world that a sick boy needed cheering, Armand Schultz, 9, of 2916 S. Lenox st., a leukemia victim, has received some 30,000 post cards for his collection. Here he is shown with Fred H. Zolin, vice-president of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' club, as he gave a message of thanks over Zolin's station, W90NY.

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BOY INVALID, 9, MEETS UNSEEN FRIEND ON RADIO

BY JOHNSON KANADY

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Milwaukee, Feb. 6—Armand Schultz, 9, had the thrill of his life when for a while he operated amateur radio station W9ONY and talked pleasantly to a friend he has never seen, Harry Rex Jr., at W1QLL, Nantucket, Mass.

Doctors fear Armand's life will be much shorter than it should be for a lad so interested in the world. Armand is a victim of leukemia and has little chance of living much longer, barring a miracle.

But thru the interest of Rex the boy, a postcard collector, has been able to pursue his hobby at a rate few ever achieve. To date there are more than 15,000 postcards in his collection, and they are from all over the world, thanks to the Massachusetts ham, who first broadcast Armand's plight and his hobby.

Installs Set at Bed

A week ago the Milwaukee Radio Amateur's club, which had already made Armand an honorary member, installed a receiver by the boy's bed in his home at 2916 S. Lenox av. Since that time Armand has been able to spend some of the weary waiting hours listening to the ham chatter on the short waves.

Today he was able to talk back, and thank his unseen friend. Fred H. Zolin, 2443 N. Cramer st., vice president of the Milwaukee club, invited Rex to be on the air at 7:30 this morning.

Then he had Armand's mother bring the boy to the Zolin house for breakfast en route to Children's hospital for his weekly checkup.

Talks to Benefactor

While Armand was engaged with a glass of milk, Zolin switched on his receiver, and there was Rex calling for Zolin's W9ONY. The

Thanks Benefactor



Armand Schultz, 9, with Fred H. Zolin at amateur radio station in Milwaukee. [TRIBUNE Photo]

boy's grin erased the effects of his consuming illness as he took the microphone and spoke firmly, "I want to thank you for everything you have done for me."

He told of the cards he has received, some items dating back before the 20th century, and of the

little hunting knife that came from Alaska, and the "QSL" [amateur radio acknowledgment cards] he got yesterday from Coventry, England.

Armand was puzzled about the transmission until Zolin asked Rex if he had received okay. Back came Rex's voice, "I got everything you said, Armand." The boy's grin returned, and stayed there as he and his mother continued their trip to the hospital.



TALKS TO BENEFACTOR—Armand

Schultz, 9, of 2101A W. Lloyd St., a victim of chronic lymphatic leukemia, is treated to a real thrill at the home of Fred Zolin, 2443 N. Cramer St. Zolin, wire chief for Western Union here, and a radio ham, brought the youngster to his home Wednesday to talk with radio hams all over the country. Armand is shown holding a radio conversation with Harry Rex Jr., of Nantucket, Mass. Rex recently brought Armand's plight to the attention of radio hams all over the world. Since that time the boy has received more than 15,000 cards and letters from wellwishers.

Photo by Ken Eggert.

Boy, 9, Loses Fight for Life

Armand Schultz Dies of Leukemia; Had Been Given ACTH

Armand E. Schultz, 9, lost his long and desperate struggle for life late Monday morning. He died of

chronic lymphatic leukemia at Milwaukee Children's hospital. Constant care and treatment with the new hog pituitary extract, ACTH, before being readmitted to the hospital May 3 failed to save life of the slight, blond boy. He was a limited ambulatory patient when he re-entered the hospital but his condition grew progressively worse.

Up to his death, the letters and post cards that Armand had begged for last Christmas kept coming in. The boy, whose illness then was becoming acute, had pleaded for messages because "they keep me company" and amateur radio operators spread his plea as far away as Alaska. Thousands of notes poured in to brighten his days.

Last fall Armand was given only a week to live, but at Easter he returned home after treatment with ACTH, and the hopes of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Armand E. Schultz, sr., grew stronger.

He was hungry, they noted with satisfaction. Before being taken to the Wisconsin General hospital in Madison to be treated with ACTH, he had not eaten for two weeks. He had been fed through his veins for about a week.

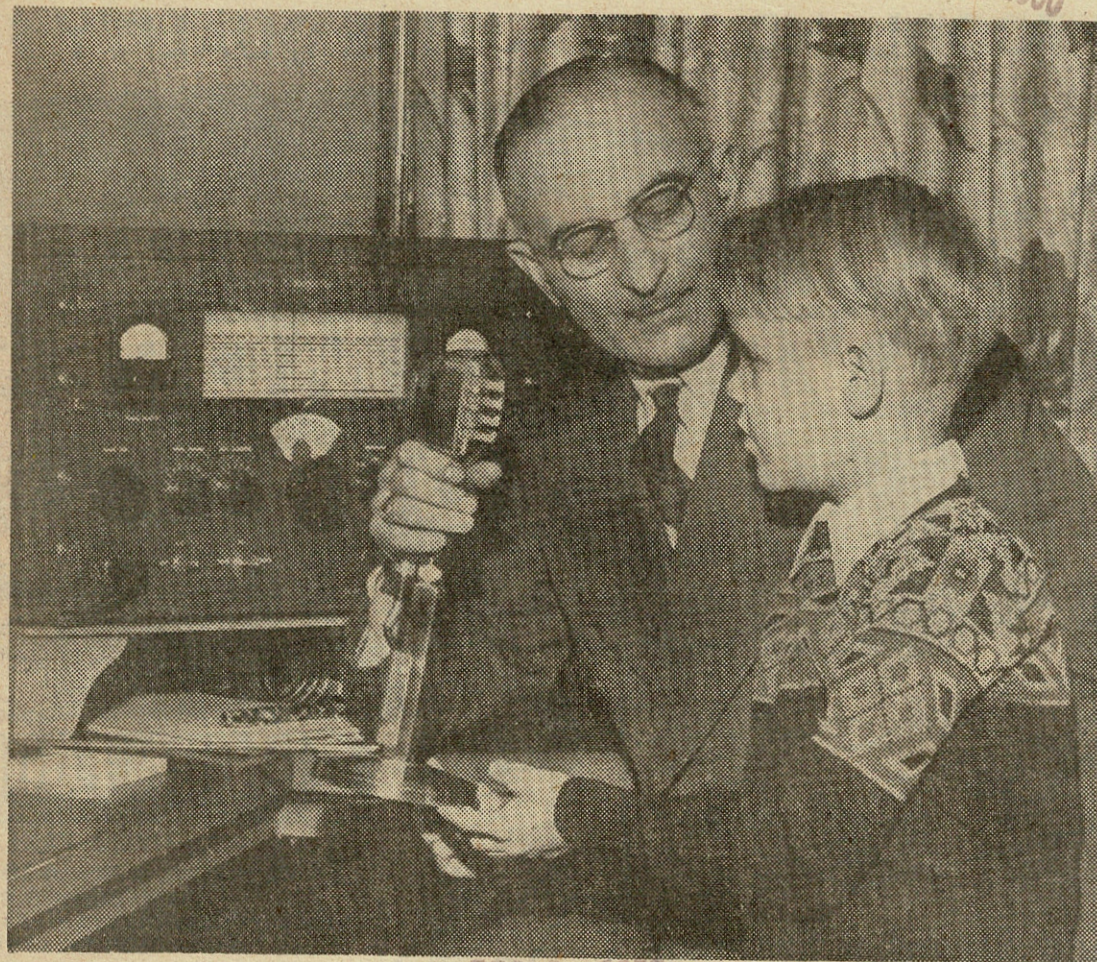
But Armand suffered a relapse and was returned to the Wisconsin General hospital in Madison Apr. 15 for more ACTH treatment.

Surviving, besides his parents, are two sisters, Lorelei and Nancy. The family home is at 2916 S. Lenox st. Arrangements for services are incomplete.



Armand Schultz

Lad Talks With Nantucket 'Ham'



Armand Schultz, 9-year-old Milwaukee leukemia victim, chats via short-wave radio with Harry Rex, Nantucket pharmacist and amateur radio operator, through facilities of "ham" radio station W90NY operated by Fred Zolin, vice-president of Milwaukee Radio Amateur

Club, in Mr. Zolin's home. The club also has installed a short-wave radio receiving set in Armand's home, so the youngster can listen in on broadcasts of amateurs who carried on the appeal started by Mr. Rex resulting in a flood of more than 15,000 cards and letters for Armand.

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Cards to Stricken Boy Answer Plea of Nantucket 'Ham'



A portion of the thousands of greeting cards of all types sent from all parts of the U.S. occupy most of the bed to which 9-year-old Armand Schultz of Milwaukee, Wis., is confined.

Ham radio operators in Nantucket and Pawtucket, R.I., broadcast an appeal for cards to cheer the young leukemia victim.

By LAURA PIARSKI

Milwaukee Journal Staff Writer

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 21—By the thousands, postcards are pouring in for the ill 9-year-old boy who asked for them because "they keep me company." Now, though, they are more than company. They are giving leukemia victim Armand Schultz a boost for life. Armand recently entered a Milwaukee hos-

pital. The cards are in response to a Christmas plea spread throughout the country and beyond by "ham" radio operators. A Nantucket, Mass., "ham" and a fellow operator in Pawtucket, R. I., spurred the chain of radio messages about Armand.

The frail youngster currently is being treated with a new drug known to have aided other leukemia sufferers. He went to the hospital early this month because his illness was in an acute stage. Doctors at Christmas-time warned his parents Armand had not much longer to live.

Dad Is 'Postman'

Though Armand is not strong enough to look at all the cards and letters he gets each day, he does manage to examine some of them. From his hospital bed he watches for "postman"—his dad—who reports invariably with a satchel full of mail.

The mail comes from every State in the United States, from as far south as the Panama Canal Zone and as far north as Alaska. New England — especially Massachusetts, Maine and Rhode Island—have contributed heavily.

One Boston resident sent Armand his entire collection of 1,700 cards showing scenes around the world.

Mayors, postal workers, mothers and school children are among well wishers who hope Armand gets better soon. A total of 12,000 cards and letters have been received already.

Armand is grateful for what "hams" have done for him. Truth is, he is a "ham" himself. The Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club

has given him an honorary membership. Now he is anxious to get home, 2101-A West Lloyd Street, so he can talk over a portable receiving and sending set the local club has promised to set up for him.

Armand wants especially to thank Harry Rex, Nantucket pharmacist, for spreading his plea.

'Told Friend in Louisiana'

Mr. Rex, who spends most of his spare time at his radio microphone, learned of the youngster's plight, he said, from another "ham" operator, George Brown of Pawtucket.

"We were gabbing one morning," Mr. Rex said, "and George happened to mention the boy was sick and likes picture cards.

"I was interested and figured other hams might be, too. I told a friend of mine in Louisiana about him and he was all for sending some cards to the boy.

"Another operator in Anchorage heard us talking and called me for more details. Later, I overheard the fellow in Anchorage telling it to somebody in Chicago."

A news story from Nantucket published in The New Bedford Sunday Standard-Times Jan. 8 spread the word throughout the entire Southeastern Massachusetts area, contributing materially to the avalanche of postcards received by the stricken lad.

In the meantime Armand is working hard at getting well. And thinking about the big scrapbook he will have to get for all the cards he has collected. He never throws them away. He likes to read them again and again. He has long planned on fixing up a scrapbook someday.

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5,000 Throughout Nation Respond To 'Cards For Armand' Plea Aired By Nantucket Radio 'Ham'

Cards from more than 5,000 well-wishers throughout North America have already poured in on nine-year-old Armand Schultz of Milwaukee following news stories relating the efforts of two radio "hams", Harry Rex, Nantucket pharmacist, and George Brown, of Pawtucket, R. I. to spread the youngster's wish for penny picture post cards among other amateur operators.

Little Armand is at the Milwaukee Children's Hospital, a victim of leukemia, and fighting for his life. Armand had expressed a desire for the picture post cards to while away his time.

The Nantucket pharmacist, himself the father of two children, became interested in Armand's small wish while having one of his innumerable radio "ham" talks with Brown of Pawtucket. Brown had learned about Armand through the Eagle Lodge president. Other amateur operators overheard the Rex-Brown talk and contacted the Nantucketer for more details. And word among the "hams" continued to spread to places as far away as Japan and Anchorage, Alaska.

Crier Gave AP Story

Original news story of Armand and the efforts of Harry and Brown in his behalf appeared exclusively in the Nantucket Town Crier two weeks ago and its editors filed the story carrying a Nantucket dateline with the Associated Press. The story was used by newspapers across the nation and resulted in the avalanche of cards and letters to Armand.

Harry himself has been recipient of letters commending his spirit and effort in behalf of Armand.

From all reports, Armand is going to have a grand variety of landscape views to entertain him. One Massachusetts collector of cards wrote Harry that he was forwarding some 3,000 cards he had collected to the Milwaukee youngster. He was Samuel Goodwin of Fairview who read about Armand in the Springfield Union.

Scrapbooks For Armand

And a Rumford, Me. school teacher, Miss Florence Murphy, wrote Harry:

"Recently I read in the Portland Sunday Telegram about the nine-year-old Armand Schultz of Milwaukee who is very ill and likes cards.

"My children here at school and I are making picture scrapbooks to send to him.

"Would you please be kind enough to forward me the correct address? Thanks much."

Harry who also sent Armand Nantucket cards has been forwarding Armand's address to those whose newspaper accounts did not carry it.

"Herbie" Brownell, Island blind musician, who frequently listens in on radio "ham" talks sent Armand a unique postal containing a per-

sonal message of good wishes in Braille.

Some persons have sent cards addressed to Armand at Nantucket by mistake and postal employes have forwarded them to the youngster in Milwaukee.

Milwaukee newspapers carried the story and picture of Armand after learning about the youngster in the Associated Press story.

Harry To Talk To Boy

A Milwaukee radio "ham" wrote Harry that he was making arrangements to have the youngster talk with Harry soon. The Milwaukee operator, Fred Zolin, who is director of publicity for the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, also told the Nantucketer that his organization had made Armand an honorary member and presented him with a certificate at the hospital.

In his letter to Harry, the Milwaukee operator wrote:

"Your name was mentioned in several newspaper items about the 'Hams' passing the word around about Armand Schultz who is the sick lad in the Milwaukee Children's Hospital. It appears that you seemed to have started this in response to Armand's request for cards and letters. Can you write me about this for publicity? The Chicago Tribune correspondent says he got his dope from a newspaper in your city. They had a nice story about it and I'm sorry I don't have a clipping to send to you. However, the enclosed clipping (picture and story of Armand receiving the honorary membership in the Milwaukee radio "ham" club) is what our Club did for him.

"Now, Harry, we would like to arrange for a schedule some way, perhaps 20 meters, whereby you could talk direct to Armand...

"I might mention that Armand has received over 5,000 pieces of communications so far. Armand's condition is not the best but we are all hoping for him. I saw him yesterday at the hospital and presented him with the certificate of Honorary membership."

Zolin and Harry have since talked by radio and planned a talk between the latter and Armand as soon as possible. Zolin told the Nantucket operator that Armand's parents were greatly pleased and gratified for the nationwide effort made to satisfy their sick youngster's wish.

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